

REMARKS

To further prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended herein Claims 1 and 10-14. The claim amendments do not add subject matter to the present application and have antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

In addition, Applicants have cancelled herein Claim 3 and have added herein new Claim 17. Claims 1-2 and 4-17 are currently pending with Claims 1, 10 and 17 in independent form

Claim 9 Objected To Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c)

Claim 9 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim, namely, Claim 8. Applicants have amended herein Claim 9 to depend from independent Claim 1, and respectfully submit Claim 9 now further limits the invention of Claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 3 has been cancelled herein; therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 5-6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,781,191 issued to Mayuzumi et al. ("Mayuzumi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1 and 5-6 as being anticipated by Mayuzumi for the reasons given below.

The Examiner has taken the position in the Office Action that Mayuzumi teaches each and every element of the system recited in Claim 1; therefore, the system of Claim 1 is anticipated by Mayuzumi. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 has been amended herein and is directed to:

A system for guiding a user through performance of a procedure corresponding to a device associated with the system, the system comprising:

at least one stored procedure including a plurality of steps to be performed by a user;

at least one sensor providing information regarding the status of the device;
a display for displaying the plurality of steps in order;
a programmed processor connected to the sensor for determining whether a currently displayed step has been properly performed based upon the information regarding the status of the device from the sensor;
and
the programmed processor including means for displaying one or more additional steps to correct error caused by a step which is not properly performed in response to the programmed processor determining that recovery from the error is possible.

Applicants respectfully submit that Mayuzumi does not teach at least the limitation to the programmed processor, as required by Claim 1. More specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Mayuzumi does not teach at least a programmed processor that *displays one or more additional steps to correct error caused by a step that is not properly performed in response to the programmed processor determining that recovery from the error is possible.*

Mayuzumi discloses a system and method for providing operation guidance information that provides an end-user with instructions to perform certain measures or “steps” to correct or to recover from an event occurring in, for instance, a system or a device peripheral to the system that affects the operation or performance of the system and/or the peripheral device. When an error or problem results from a physical cause or event, a reproduction control unit (1A) selects and retrieves from a database (4) operation guidance information and reproduces and displays the information at a terminal apparatus (2A) for an end-user to view, as shown in Fig. 1. The objects of the Mayuzumi invention include employing multi-media elements, such as visual images and sound outputs, to convey to the end-user the operation guidance or recovery information, and to allow the end-user to select the level of detail of such information, for instance, depending upon the end-user’s skill level. The content of the operation guidance information can be successively displayed in a gradually higher degree of detail in response to the end-user entering, through an input device, a request or an instruction to change the degree of detail of the information displayed. (col. 4, line 52 to col. 5, line 2). In addition, when a certain part or “step” of the operation guidance information is completed by the end-user, a notification is sent from, for instance, the peripheral device that that part or “step” of the recovery work is completed. However, if, after a predetermined time, such notification is not sent, for instance, if the end-user is not sure what to do next and/or needs additional information, the part or “step” of the operation guidance information is redisplayed. (col. 27, lines 13-19).

Applicants respectfully submit that these teachings of Mayuzumi do not anticipate the limitation of the programmed processor, as required by Claim 1, and, in particular, do not anticipate that the programmed processor *displays one or more additional steps to correct error caused by a step that is not properly performed*. This limitation provides that if a step is not performed properly, additional steps to correct error caused by improper performance are displayed. In contrast, Mayuzumi redisplays the same part or “step” of the operation guidance information if the notification from the peripheral device is not transmitted. This lack of notification may indicate the end-user has not performed the “step” within a predetermined period of time.

Applicants respectfully submit redisplaying the same part or “step” of the operation guidance information after a predetermined time, and/or when no notification signal is transmitted, does not teach *displays one or more additional steps to correct error caused by a step that is not properly performed*. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that responding to the lack of receiving a notification signal from the peripheral device, if, for instance, the end-user has not performed a part or “step” of the operation guidance information within a predetermined time, does not teach *error caused by a step that is not properly performed*. Further, Applicants respectfully submit Mayuzumi does not teach *displays one or more additional steps . . . in response to the programmed processor determining that recovery from the error is possible*.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Mayuzumi. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claim 1 under §102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 5-6 depend from Claim 1 and are patentable for at least the reasons given above. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of these Claims under § 102(b).

Rejection of Claims 2-4, 7-9, 10-11, 12-15, and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3, 10-11, and 15 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayuzumi. Claims 2, 4, and 12-14 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayuzumi in view of the Microsoft Computer Dictionary. Claims 7 and 16 have been rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayuzumi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,156 issued to Sakai et al. (“Sakai”). Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayuzumi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,673,028 issued to Levy (“Levy”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of these Claims under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the cited prior art for at least the reasons

given below. Applicants will address the rejections of the Claims under § 103(a) with respect to the rejections of independent Claims 1 and 10.

As discussed above, Claim 1 has been amended herein and is directed to a system comprising, among other limitations, *the programmed processor including means for displaying one or more additional steps to correct error caused by a step which is not properly performed in response to the programmed processor determining that recovery from the error is possible*. Applicants respectfully submit that Mayuzumi does not provide a teaching or suggestion that would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the Mayuzumi system and method to include at least the limitation of the programmed processor, as required by Claim 1.

The amendment to Claim 1 includes, in part, the limitation recited in cancelled Claim 3, which Applicants have cancelled herein by the foregoing claim amendments. The Examiner has taken the position in the Office Action that Claim 3 is obvious and therefore unpatentable over Mayuzumi. Applicants respectfully disagree, and further submit that Claim 1, including the limitation of cancelled Claim 3, is unpatentable over Mayuzumi.

The Examiner admits in the Office Action that Mayuzumi "does not explicitly disclose displaying additional steps to correct an error caused by a step which is not performed properly." However, the Examiner contends it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art "to provide more detailed steps to a user after a predetermined time has passed during which the provided step is not performed . . . but only at the user's request," as Mayuzumi teaches.

Applicants respectfully submit that it appears in the Action that the Examiner contends these teachings of Mayuzumi render obvious *the programmed processor including means for displaying one or more additional steps to correct error caused by a step which is not properly performed* to one of ordinary skill. Applicants respectfully disagree because these teachings of Mayuzumi teach or suggest providing more detailed steps as a result of non-action on the part of the end-user, or lack of receipt of a notification from the peripheral device, during a predetermined period of time rather than displaying additional steps in response to an improperly performed step.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit these teachings of Mayuzumi do not teach or suggest providing the one or more additional steps *in response to the programmed processor determining that recovery from the error is possible*. Rather, Mayuzumi teaches that more detailed steps are provided after a predetermined time has expired without an end-user performing a part or "step" and/or in response to an end-user inputting a request for more detailed instructions. Applicants respectfully

submit that these teachings of Mayuzumi do not teach or suggest *determining that recovery from the error is possible and displaying one or more additional steps to correct error caused by a step which is not properly performed*. Therefore, at least the limitation of the programmed processor of Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Mayuzumi because the programmed processor displays the one or more additional steps in response to *determining that recovery from the error is possible* rather than after a predetermined period of inaction and/or at an end-user's inputted request.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of Mayuzumi that the Examiner cites as a basis for obviousness of Claim 1 would not motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system and method of Mayuzumi to meet at least the limitation of the programmed processor. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of Mayuzumi would not achieve the invention recited in Claim 1.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Mayuzumi.

With respect to Claim 10, Claim 10 has been amended herein and is directed to:

A method of guiding a user through performance of a procedure corresponding to a device, the method comprising:

- displaying one or more steps of the procedure to the user;
- monitoring the status of the device to determine whether any of the one or more steps has been properly performed by the user;
- displaying a next step of the procedure to the user upon determining that a prior step has been properly performed; and
- displaying one or more additional steps to correct error caused by a step which is not properly performed upon determining that recovery from the error is possible.*

Claim 10 is directed to a method that comprises a number of limitations that correspond to one or more limitations of the system recited in Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Mayuzumi does not teach or suggest at least the limitation to *displaying one or more additional steps to correct error caused by a step which is not properly performed upon determining that recovery from the error is possible*, as required by Claim 10. For at least the same reasons given above with respect to Claim 1, Mayuzumi does not provide a teaching or suggestion that would motivate one of

ordinary skill in the art to modify the system and method of Mayuzumi to include at least this limitation. In addition, the teachings of Mayuzumi would not achieve the method of Claim 10.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit Claim 10 is patentably distinct from Mayuzumi. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 10 as being unpatentable over Mayuzumi under § 103(a).

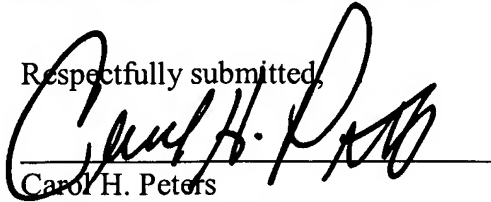
Claims 2 and 4-9 depend from Claim 1 and are patentable over Mayuzumi, either alone or in any of the cited combinations of prior art, for at least the same reasons given above. In addition, Claims 11-16 depend from Claim 10 and are patentable over Mayuzumi, either alone or in any of the cited combinations of prior art, for at least the same reasons given above. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 2, 4-9, and 11-16 under § 103(a).

Patentability of Claim 17

Applicants respectfully submit that new independent Claim 17 is patentable in view of the prior art of record. In particular, Claim 17 is patentably distinct from the cited combination of Mayuzumi and Sakai. The Examiner has rejected Claims 7 and 16 that are directed to the device of Claims 1 and 10, respectively, including an uninterruptible power supply. The Examiner indicates that Sakai teaches a system having multiple power supplies and a built-in microcontroller to provide uninterruptible power and indicators for possible malfunctions; therefore, the Examiner contends it would have been obvious to use the system and method of Mayuzumi with an uninterruptible power supply. Applicants respectfully submit the cited combination of Mayuzumi and Sakai as suggested by the Examiner does not achieve the invention recited in Claim 17. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of Sakai do not provide a teaching or suggestion such that Mayuzumi is modified to include at least the limitation to the programmed processor, as required by Claim 17. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 17 is patentably distinct from Mayuzumi in view of Sakai.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an action to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, he is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol H. Peters", is written over a horizontal line.

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